

6 February 1986
MBK-6002

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - Bangkok Bureau - January 1986

I. General

A. January was the first full month the Bureau had the use of its new ROSET. Until the new microwave system is installed, there are three teletype lines and one audio line for live TV audio available to the Bureau. Some video is being recorded from ROSET and the tapes transported to the Bureau, usually the next day. Two VSLs have been processed from Indian television using the small dish, one purporting to show the interior of India's breeder reactor and the other covering India's National Day parade complete with military hardware, missiles, rockets, etc.

Satellite cruising began around mid-month following the arrival and Embassy processing of [redacted] By month's end seventeen satellites had been identified with the prospects of several more turning up in due course. Media from eighteen countries and two multinational press agencies have been identified. And as the production report indicates, over 48,000 publishable words were filed from ROSET during the month. Although the Philippines is not part of the Bureau's regular coverage area, ROSET has given us sole access to selected items from the PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY, which the Bureau is exploiting in the run-up to the 7 February elections.

STAT

In order to let all personnel get a firsthand look at ROSET, weekly tours were conducted at Bang Ping by Bureau engineer [redacted] By month's end all but three employees had seen the new equipment up close.

STAT

B. A number of political and economic events in Thailand kept things stirred up during the month. The resignation of former Prime Minister Khukrit Pramot as leader of the Social Action Party (a major party in the government coalition) led to an eventual cabinet reshuffle with all the advance speculation, accusations, and jockeying for position which that involved. In addition, farmers became riled up over low commodity prices and engaged in several protests and demonstrations. There was also open speculation in the media of coups that were supposedly being planned. The latter rumors died down after a few days and at month's end normality apparently prevails.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. On the 9th, the Bureau and Hong Kong Bureau printed a day's AFP output for comparison of the ROSET and hardwire versions. In addition, the Bureau was able to obtain an AFP printout from the local VOA office which

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has a hardwire AFP file. Comparison revealed that all three versions were identical with regard to the actual items themselves. The version of AFP available from the satellite did, however, have some AFP service messages not carried by the hardwire version.

2. The usual yearend speeches by various leaders in the Bureau's coverage area involved rearranging normal monitoring schedules to cope with the extra workload. Both the president and prime minister of Pakistan in particular made lengthy speeches of some importance, coming as they did on the heels of the repeal of martial law on 30 December.

3. On the 7th, Indonesia's President Suharto made a lengthy budget speech. While the monitors were busy working on the summary with quotes which was filed, ANTARA came up via ROSET with a nice one (FBIS) take wrapup containing the main points. This the Bureau also filed.

B. Lateral Services

Following a request which was passed on to the Bureau through our own embassy, we are now supplying the Singapore Embassy with copies of all outgoing items from the media of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The Bureau was already supplying the Singaporeans copies of incoming items from other FBIS bureaus on these three countries. Arrangements have been made for a courier to pick up the material at the Bureau twice a week. Feedback received thus far indicates the Singaporeans are very happy with the new service.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Cruising Monitor [] arrived on extended TDY on 10 January. STAT

2. The Bureau was forced to advertise again for the new receptionist position when the previously selected individual changed her mind. Some 110 replied to our ad, and at month's end the most promising candidates were being interviewed and tested.

3. Cambodian monitor [] has indicated his intention to resign to accept a job with VOA in April. One prospective replacement has been interviewed and tested, and efforts to ascertain whether there are other qualified applicants locally are continuing. STAT

4. On the 5th, most Bureau personnel attended a very nice reception at the Imperial Hotel in Bangkok to celebrate the wedding of Thai/Chinese monitor [] STAT

IV. VISITS

Lee Bigelow of the Embassy Economic Section on 6 January for consultations and Bureau tour. STAT

ATTACHMENT: Monthly Production
Report

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JANUARY 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	738,640
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	335,250
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,596

<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI-CATION</u>
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II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	20,815 min.	20,420 min.	254.00 issues
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III. OUTPUT FROM ROSET SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

INDONESIA

Jakarta ANTARA in English	7,730	
Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian	1,120	

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English	18,760	
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PHILIPPINES

Manila PNA in English	20,650	
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IV. OUTPUT FROM ALL OTHER SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	17,600	
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English		1,280

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in English	5,690	
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	710	
Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali		240
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English		3,750

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English		1,390
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BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	6,380	
Rangoon BOTATAUNG in Burmese		340
Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN in Burmese		1,030
Rangoon WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English		300

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	41,150	
Phnom Penh SPK in English		12,800
Phnom Penh SPK in French		16,740

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Burmese	420	
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	220	
Beijing International Service in Lao	800	

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	15,360	
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	10,060	
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	21,760	
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay	2,100	
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	9,960	

INDIA

Delhi Domestic Service in English	41,980	
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	3,950	
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English		4,840

<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

INDIA (continued)

Delhi PTI in English	380	
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English		1,250
Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English		1,520
Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English		310
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English		2,490
Madras THE HINDU in English		770

INDONESIA

Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	14,780	
Jakarta International Service in English	630	
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian		300
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English		1,220
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian		720
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian		820
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian		3,660
Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English		2,000

LAOS

Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	45,640	
Vientiane KPL in English		14,100
Vientiane KPL in French to Phnom Penh SPK		2,410

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	5,000	
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	1,100	
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	7,650	
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay		3,030
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English		4,410

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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MALAYSIA (continued)

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English		1,870
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay		500

NEPAL

Katmandu External Service in English	160	
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English		300

PAKISTAN

Karachi Domestic Service in English	7,670	
Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	27,360	
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	7,600	

SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	2,290	
Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English		1,380

SRI LANKA

Colombo Domestic Service in English	4,460	
Colombo International Service in English	15,230	
Colombo DAILY NEWS in English		1,000
Colombo SUN in English		1,160

THAILAND

Bangkok Domestic Service in English	2,190	
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	18,880	
Bangkok Domestic Television in Thai	2,530	
Bangkok First Army Division Radio in Thai	4,660	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Cambodian	770	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	3,110	

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATION
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THAILAND (continued)

Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	3,490	
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Vietnamese	1,370	
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English		31,160
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English		16,110
Bangkok KHAO PHANIT in Thai		170
Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai		3,260
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai		4,770
Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai		6,140
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai		2,740
Bangkok SU ANAKHOT in Thai		820
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai		2,650
Bangkok THE NATION in English		33,070

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh	640
Moscow in Burmese to Burma	650
Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia	300
Moscow in Hindi to India	250
Moscow in Lao to Laos	1,810
Moscow in Thai to Thailand	960

VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese	75,320
Hanoi International Service in English	10,510
Hanoi International Service in Thai	310
Hanoi VNA in English	13,090
Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese	40,570

BROAD-	PRESS	PUBLI-
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

VIETNAM (continued)

Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in
Vietnamese

2,060